



City of Santa Barbara
Building & Safety Division
**Pool and Spa Plan Submittal
Requirements**

Community Development
630 Garden Street
805-564-5485

General Requirements:

- ❑ Please refer to the Residential Plan Submittal Requirements for information required on plans and site plan requirements.
- ❑ Please note: Santa Barbara County Public Health Department must approve all public pools and spas.
- ❑ This handout is a summary of private swimming pool and spa building code requirements. Please review section 3109 of the 2007 CBC and SBMC Ordinance #5451 for detailed requirements.

Barrier Requirements:

Where new fencing is required because of a pool or spa installation, the permit for that fencing shall be obtained prior to, or concurrently with, the building permit for the pool. No water shall be placed in any pool or spa prior to the installation of safeguards specified on this handout and the approval of all associated work. The protective fencing enclosure is required around the entire pool, built-in spa, or yard as described below.

- ❑ The enclosure must be at least five-feet tall with openings, gaps, or holes that would not allow the passage of a four-inch sphere.
- ❑ The maximum vertical clearance from the ground to the bottom of the enclosure is two inches.
- ❑ The outside surface must be free of protrusions, cavities, or other physical characteristics that would serve as handholds or footholds that could enable a child below the age of five years to climb over.
- ❑ All gates or doors opening through the enclosure shall open away from the pool and be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices placed no lower than 60 inches above the ground.
- ❑ Where the release mechanism of the self-latching device is located less than 60 inches above the ground, (i) the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the barrier and (ii) the gate and the barrier shall have no opening greater than ½ inch within 18 inches of the release mechanism.
- ❑ Where a wall of a dwelling unit serves as part of the enclosure and contains door openings between the dwelling unit and the pool that provide direct access to the pool, at least **one** of the following safety features shall be provided:
 - (a) The pool shall be equipped with an approved power safety pool cover that meets performance standards of ASTM F1346-91.
 - (b) The residence shall be equipped with exit alarms on those doors providing direct access to the pool.
 - (c) The residence shall be equipped with self-closing, self-latching devices on the doors providing direct access to the pool. The release mechanism shall be placed no lower than 54 inches above the floor.
- ❑ Enclosures are not required for residential spas equipped with an ASTM ES 13-89 approved, locking safety cover.

Plumbing Requirements:

- ❑ Provide pool piping schematic layout with all pipe sizes shown and types of material to be used.
- ❑ Provide anti-siphon devices on unprotected hose bibs on property.
- ❑ Discharge and drainage water from pools and spas must drain into the community sewer system.
- ❑ Provide an approved testable back-flow device on makeup water for the pool or supply to the house. Minimum protection per S.B.M.C. (Santa Barbara Municipal Code) is a Pressure Vacuum Breaker, add note on plans to read as follows: "DEVICE MUST BE TESTED BY A CERTIFIED BACKFLOW TESTER PRIOR TO FINAL INSPECTION."

- ❑ Each outlet on a non-potable water line which may be mistakenly used for drinking or domestic purpose shall be posted: DANGER UNSAFE WATER
- ❑ Provide an approved method for draining the pool & spa into City sewer system as required by Building Division Ordinance 5401 section 3609. This can be by means of a 3" clean out and pool system drain with a 4" air gap to clean out.

Electrical Requirements:

- ❑ Provide at least one GFCI protected receptacle outlet located between 10 and 20 feet from the inside wall of the pool or spa for outdoor installations and between 5 and 10 feet for indoor installations.
- ❑ Indicate on the plot plan any existing and proposed electrical service, panels, sub-panels and other equipment.
- ❑ Show location of utility pole/service entrance conductors and location – amperage of electrical service. Indicate on plot plan any existing overhead wires and their height above the water.
- ❑ Show all exterior lighting fixtures within 10 feet of pool or spa. All lighting of the pool area shall be so hooded that the light does not shine towards adjacent properties and public right-of-ways.
- ❑ Indicate all items to be bonded together including the reinforcing steel, fittings, motors, fixture shells, etc.
- ❑ Show the location for all pool light junction boxes connected to wet niche lighting fixtures.
- ❑ Show the location of electrical disconnect for all equipment within 50 feet of pool or spa.
- ❑ Indicate the type of raceway(s) to be installed for wet niche fixture shells.
- ❑ Show all branch circuit wiring to all pool related equipment, motors, lighting, receptacle outlets, pool cover motors, lighting receptacle outlets, pool cover motors and controllers etc.
- ❑ Provide an accessible means to disconnect power from the motors and controllers that is within sight from the pool, spa, or hot tub equipment, at least 5 feet horizontally from the inside walls of the pool, spa, or hot tub.
- ❑ Show required workspace in front of all electrical equipment.
- ❑ Show feeders to sub-panels. Indicate raceway and conductor sizes and types.
- ❑ Show all over current devices and controllers including relays and timers.
- ❑ Provide general notes and equipment schedule for swimming pools and spas.